

# FORT ELLICE TRAIL

TOUR No. 4

*Proposed*  
*Route and Time Schedule*  
*and*  
*Points of Interest*



DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF TRAVEL  
Province of Manitoba  
Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Hon. Gurney Evans  
Minister

M.J.G. McMullen  
Deputy Minister



# FORT ELLICE TRAIL - - TOUR No. 4

## PROPOSED ROUTE and TIME SCHEDULE

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DAY		POINTS OF INTEREST	PLACE	TIME	HIGHWAY NO.	MILEAGE INTERMEDIATE	TOTAL	ACTIVITY
Friday	Start	(1)	Legislative Building (North Entrance - off Broadway)	5:30 pm		0	0	Call at tourist information office inside Main Entrance. Sign register. Obtain buffalo sticker. Circle building, passing lovely lawns and flowers. Inspect statues of four famous men - La Verendrye, Earl of Selkirk, Lord Dufferin and General Wolfe.
	Leave		Legislative Building	5:45 pm	1 & 4			Proceed on Highway No. 1 and No. 4 (Portage Avenue West) to Silver Heights.
	Arrive	(2)	Silver Heights - Mount Royal Road	6:15 pm	1 & 4	5	5	Turn north on Mount Royal Road and inspect plaque located on stone pillar 50 feet from highway.
	Leave		Silver Heights	6:18 pm				Return to No. 1 and No. 4 highway and proceed west to the Principal Meridian Cairn, about one mile past Headingley.
	Arrive	(3)	Principal Meridian Cairn	6:30 pm	1 & 4	8	13	Stop and inspect cairn on the right hand side of the Highway.
	Leave		Principal Meridian Cairn	6:35 pm	1 & 4			Continue west on highway to junction of No. 1 and No. 4 and turn right off Trans Canada Highway onto old No. 1 route (now renumbered No. 4) continue west to St. Francois Xavier.
	Arrive	(4)	St. Francois Xavier	6:47 pm	1 & 4	7	20	Stop and inspect the old church.
	Leave		St. Francois Xavier	6:52 pm	4			Continue on Highway No. 4.
	Arrive		Poplar Point	7:20 pm	4	24	44	Drive through town. Poplar Point and Portage la Prairie are the outfitting centres for sportsmen travelling into the world-famous waterfowl shooting areas in the Delta Marshes. It is also the home of many famous hockey stars.
	Leave		Poplar Point	7:25 pm	4			Continuing west for 9 miles, the village of High Bluff is seen to the right. It is here that Thomas Spence started his shortlived "Republic of Manitoba" in 1867 - three years before Manitoba was proclaimed a province under Confederation in 1870. Continue westward to Portage la Prairie.



DAY		POINTS OF INTEREST	PLACE	TIME	HIGHWAY NO.	MILEAGE INTERMEDIATE	TOTAL	ACTIVITY
Saturday	Arrive	(5 & 6)	Portage la Prairie	7:45 pm	4	15	59	Overnight stop.
	Leave		Portage la Prairie	8:00 am	1 & 4			Seven miles west of Portage la Prairie turn north on Highway No. 4. Six miles north on your right you pass the town of MacDonald and the Royal Canadian Air Force station -- now a centre for training North Atlantic Treaty Organization personnel.
	Arrive		Westbourne	8:40 am	4	21	80	Continue on Highway No. 4 to Westbourne. Turn right and drive through the town, known in early days as "First Crossing" -- the site of the first crossing of the Saskatchewan Trail over the Whitemud River by the early pioneers. Visit Perry Park, privately owned and developed for use of the public by Mr. W.J. Paterson.
	Leave		Westbourne	8:50 am	4			Continue on Highway No. 4 to Woodside.
	Arrive		Woodside	9:04 am	4	11	91	Eleven miles past Westbourne you drive through Woodside. Woodside was early known as "second crossing" being the second place the original Saskatchewan Trail crossed the Whitemud River.
	Leave		Woodside	9:05 am	4			Continue on Highway No. 4 to Gladstone.
	Arrive	(7)	Gladstone	9:15 am	4	8	99	Stop and visit cairn commemorating the "third crossing" of the Whitemud River by early pioneers.
	Leave		Gladstone	9:20 am	4			Drive west on Highway No. 4 crossing the Arden Ridge approximately 12 miles past Gladstone. This is a rolling hilly country with a generous overburden of rock and gravel which formed the shore of ancient Lake Agassiz. After the Arden Ridge a beautiful stretch of land marked with woody hummocks, river valleys and fertile plains comes into view. This is known as "Beautiful Plains".
	Arrive	(8 & 9)	Neepawa	9:50 am	4	23	122	In the heart of these beautiful plains lies the town of Neepawa. The town was named in 1873 from the Saulteaux word meaning "plenty". Visit Riverbend Park and the Salt Plant. Return to Highway No. 4.
	Leave		Neepawa	10:15 am	4			Proceed 18 miles west on Highway No. 4 entering No. 10 highway leading 2 miles north to Minnedosa.



	POINTS OF INTEREST	PLACE	TIME	HIGHWAY NO.	MILEAGE INTERMEDIATE TOTAL	ACTIVITY
Arrive	(10)	Minnedosa	10:40 am	4 & 10	20 142	Enter the town situated in the beautiful valley of the Minnedosa River. Visit the beach located on the river.
Leave	(11)	Minnedosa	10:55 am	10		Five miles west of Minnedosa you leave No. 4 Highway and turn north onto Highway No. 10. Nine miles north cross the Minnedosa Valley, and view one of Manitoba's most picturesque valleys.
Arrive		Erickson	11:23 am	10	21 163	Continue north to Erickson -- named after the original postmaster who owned the townsite. Drive through the town.
Leave		Erickson	11:27 am	10		Continue 5 miles on Highway No. 10 to the junction of the Sandy Lake Road locally known as the "Turkey Trail" which skirts the forested lakeland on the southern reaches of Riding Mountain National Park. Continue westward through the villages of Sandy Lake, Elphinstone, Oakburn, Rossburn, Angusville and Silverton to Russell.
Arrive	(12 & 13)	Russell	1:27 pm	10 and Turkey Trail	89 252	Stop for lunch .
Leave		Russell	2:20 pm	83		From Russell continue south on Highway No. 83 to Binscarth where you leave No. 83 and pick up Highway No. 41 to the junction of 41A. Turn right and proceed downhill into St. Lazare.
Arrive		St. Lazare	2:55 pm	41 & 41A	28 280	Turn left on Main Street, cross railway tracks. Continue over bridge to south side of valley. Turn left onto winding road up escarpment to top of plateau. Visit the Fort Ellice cairn commemorating Hudson's Bay Post at the junction of the Assiniboine River and Beaver Creek.
Leave		St. Lazare	3:10 pm	41A & 83		Continue east on 41A to Birtle where you pick up highway No. 83 which takes you south to the junction of Highway No. 1. Turn left onto Highway No. 1 and proceed to Virden.
Arrive	(14 & 15)	Virden	4:15 pm	83 & 1	53 333	Virden -- the oil capital of Manitoba. See the oil pumps operating within the town limits.



DAY	POINTS OF INTEREST	PLACE	TIME	HIGHWAY NO.	MILEAGE INTERMEDIATE TOTAL		ACTIVITY
Sunday		Leave Virden	4:30 pm	1			After visiting the Fort Montagne a la Bosse cairn, return to Highway No. 1 and continue east through the town of Oak Lake and on to Brandon.
		Arrive Brandon	5:35 pm	1	46	379	Arrange accommodation for overnight stop. (See accommodation booklet). Have a late dinner.
	(16)	Arrive Experimental Farm (Brandon)	1:30 pm		3	382	Visit the Brandon Experimental Farm which is reached via Eighteenth Street North. Crossing over two bridges you turn left onto the experimental farm road. Proceed west for about half a mile and turn into the farm and inspect the livestock bred at this experimental station.
	(17)	Arrive Exhibition Grounds (Brandon)	2:00 pm		3	385	Retrace route back to Eighteenth Street, turn right and proceed south on Eighteenth to Southern Avenue. Turn left on Southern Avenue and proceed to Thirteenth Street, turning right once again. Drive to Exhibition Grounds and visit the zoo.
	(18)	Arrive Down Town (Brandon)	2:25 pm		2	387	Return to Eighteenth Street and proceed north to Rosser Avenue. Turn right on Rosser and drive east through the shopping centre. Proceed east on Rosser to First Street. Turn left and drive north to the junction of the No. 1 and No. 10 highways.
		Leave Brandon	2:40 pm	10 & 1			Turn right onto Highway No. 1 and proceed east to the junction of No. 34. Look for the tall parachute tower which is visible from the highway about 3 miles east of Douglas. Approximately 23 miles east of Brandon you begin to notice the sandy terrain particularly around the town of Carberry. This is the former lake bed of Glacial Lake Agassiz which covered this area many years ago. South of Carberry is a veritable desert on which many remainders of early marine life, such as bleached clam and snail shells can be found.
	(19 & 20)	Arrive Agricultural Museum - Austin	3:55 pm	1 & 34	50	437	At the junction of Highway No. 1 and No. 34 turn right and travel south for approximately two miles to the agricultural Museum. Inspect the old farm machinery on display.

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DAY	POINTS OF INTEREST	PLACE	TIME	HIGHWAY NO.	MILEAGE INTERMEDIATE	TOTAL	ACTIVITY
	Leave	Agricultural Museum - Austin	4:10 pm				Return to the No. 1 highway via No. 34 and continue east to Portage la Prairie.
	Arrive	Portage la Prairie	4:55 pm	1 & 4	32	469	Drive through town and continue east on Highway No. 1 to Winnipeg.
	Arrive	Winnipeg	6:10 pm	1	52	521	End of Tour.

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# Points of Interest

A descriptive story about the many points of interest encountered along the scenic Fort Ellice Trail.

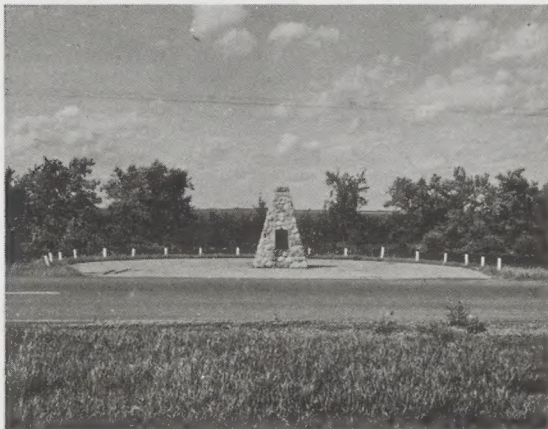


## 1. WINNIPEG -- LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

One of the finest capital structures in North America. Built of Tyndall Stone quarried in Manitoba. This magnificent seat of the provincial government is set in the midst of 30 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds - on the banks of the Assiniboine River. The central dome of the Legislative Building is tipped by the Golden Boy, a symbol of enterprise and progress. The tip of his torch is 255 feet above ground level, the highest point in Winnipeg. The edifice was opened in 1920 and the current value is estimated between 25 and 30 million dollars.

## 2. ST. JAMES -- SILVER HEIGHTS

A plaque situated on a stone pillar marks a stopping place for early travellers using the old "Saskatchewan Trail" which led from what is now Portage and Main in Winnipeg to Edmonton, Alberta. The plaque also marks the site of the home of Sir Donald A. Smith (Lord Strathcona), one of the great Canadian railroad builders and one time governor of the Hudson's Bay Company. The first two Lieutenant Governors of Manitoba also lived at Silver Heights and during the disastrous floods of 1826 and 1852, many settlers took refuge here. At one time a great herd of buffalo was kept at Silver Heights.



## 3. PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

On Highway No. 1 West, thirteen miles west of Winnipeg near Headingley stands a cairn to mark the Principal Meridian and the site where the first monument was placed on July 10, 1871 for the Dominion Lands Survey, basis of the Torrens Title system of land tenure throughout Western Canada.



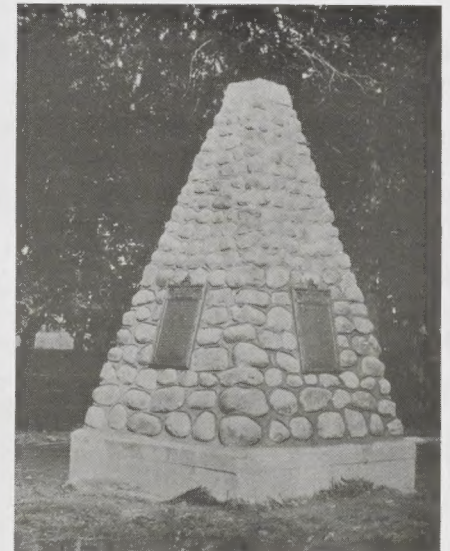


#### 4. ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER

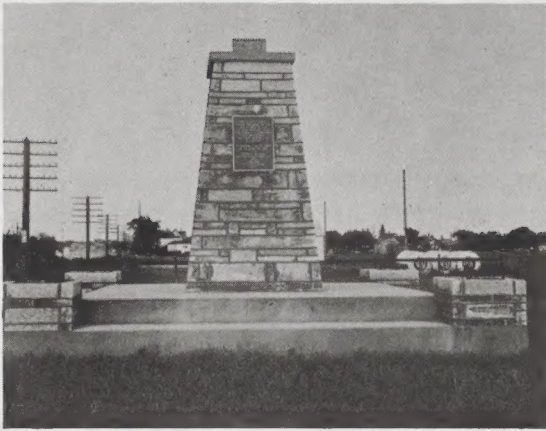
St. Francois Xavier was the first Metis settlement on the open plains west of Winnipeg and in the churchyard are buried many pioneers of early Manitoba. St. Francois Xavier marks the site of the White Horse Plain, an old Sioux Indian legend in which a Sioux warrior and his Cree bride were killed by the Sioux while attempting to escape on a white horse. The horse escaped and roamed the plains forever without being caught. St. Francois Xavier was originally called Granttown after Cuthbert Grant, warden of the plains and Metis leader of the Seven Oaks Massacre.

#### 5. - 6. PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

Portage la Prairie is one of the earliest settlements in Western Canada and is considered the hub of Manitoba's agriculture. A cairn approximately one mile southwest of the town marks the site of Fort la Reine established by La Verendrye in 1738. Fort la Reine was the headquarters for La Verendrye and his sons on their explorations northward to the Saskatchewan River, southwest to the Mandan country and west to the foothills of the Rockies. Portage la Prairie was the spot where Indians left the Assiniboine River beginning a portage to Lake Manitoba on the way to York Factory. Be sure to visit Island Park and the bird sanctuary at Crescent Lake where visitors may observe the nesting habits of the wise and wary Canada Goose. Notice the wide main street -- Saskatchewan Avenue, named after the original Saskatchewan Trail.







## 7. GLADSTONE

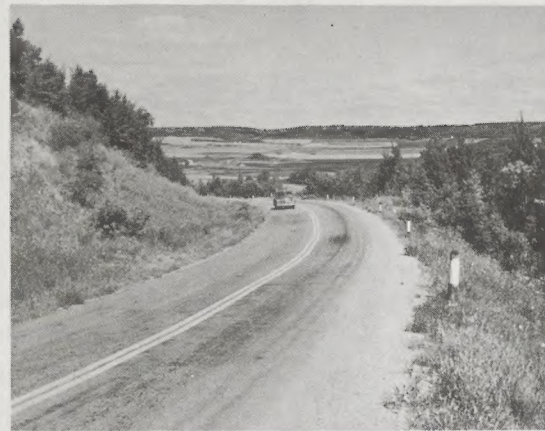
Gladstone is named after the great British statesman William Ewart Gladstone, former Prime Minister of Great Britain. Gladstone was called Palestine in the early days. A cairn commemorates an early pioneer settlement at Gladstone and marks the third crossing of the Whitemud River on the north branch of the Saskatchewan Trail.



## 8. - 9. NEEPAWA

The salt brines discovered in 1910 are the basis of Neepawa's most important manufacturing industry. Brine is pumped from 1500' deep wells, the solution evaporated and salt precipitated out. The wells at Neepawa are the only producing source of salt in Manitoba at the present time.





#### 10. - 11. MINNEDOSA

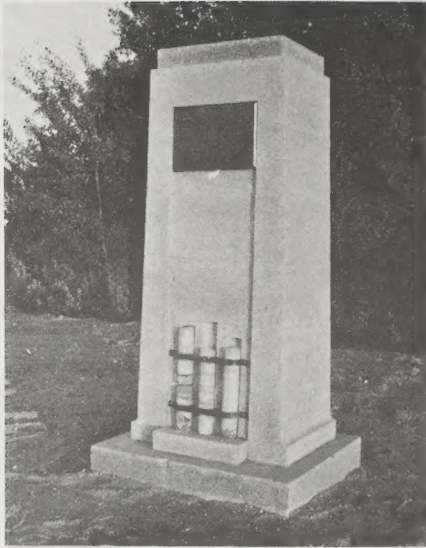
The town of Minnedosa is situated in the picturesque valley of the Minnedosa River, a tributary of the Assiniboine River. The slopes of the valley, except on the southern exposure are covered with oak and poplar with an undergrowth of hazel, saskatoon, chokecherry and dogwood. An attractive artificial lake has been formed in the valley above the town by means of an earthen dam. Minnedosa was originally known as Tanner's Crossing and the town derived its name from two Sioux words - "Minnie" meaning water and "duza" - rapid. Minnedosa was also the crossing place on the Saskatchewan Trail on the way to Fort Ellice. Nine miles north of Minnedosa you enter the picturesque Minnedosa Valley, one of Manitoba's most scenic valleys.

#### 12. - 13. RUSSELL

The town of Russell often referred to as "the Banner Town in the Banner County" is situated in a district admirably suited to mixed farming, being blessed with fertile prairies, good grazing land, numerous small lakes, and rich soil. The town is surrounded by scenic rolling countryside, the Birdtail Valley to the east, Silver Creek to the south, Shell River to the north and the Assiniboine to the west, about fifteen miles from the western tip of Riding Mountain National Park. Be sure to drive down Memorial Boulevard which was planted some 26 years ago by the Veterans of the district. A monument in memory of those who served in the Northwest Rebellion and First World War is located here. Visit the Northwest Rebellion Monument situated on the corner of Westbourne and Memorial Avenue, and The Manor, located at the very end of Pelly Avenue. This is the home of the late Lt. Col. C.A. Boulton who organized and led the Boulton Scouts in the Northwest Rebellion.

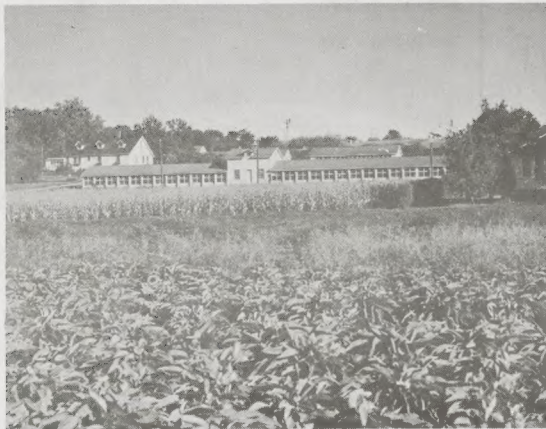
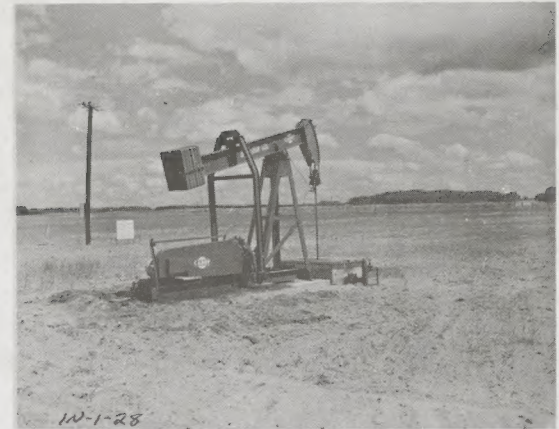






#### 14. - 15. VIRDEN

Virden is considered Manitoba's oil capital. Visit the site and monument of the first oil well and see the cairn commemorating North West Company Post, Fort Montague a la Bosse, located 400 yards north of Highway No. 1.



#### 16. - 17. - 18. BRANDON, CITY OF -- (Wheat City)

Brandon is the fourth largest city in Manitoba. In 1794 the Hudson's Bay Company established Brandon House at a spot 17 miles from the centre of the present city. Eighty years later, in 1878, permanent settlers began to arrive and as their numbers multiplied a townsite was surveyed. In 1881 Brandon was linked by rail with Winnipeg and the following year a charter of incorporation was obtained. Of interest is the experimental farm, where new types of crops and livestock are being developed. Home of Western Canada's Provincial Exhibition and Trade Fair.





#### 19. - 20. AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM -- AUSTIN

One mile south of Austin on Highway No. 34 lies Manitoba's Memorial Agricultural Museum. Here one may find old steam tractors, early threshing machines and many other reminders of by-gone days --- some in fine working order still.



